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Designed to make the job of encouraging adolescents to read less of a challenge, this book provides descriptions of all of the approximately 150 examples of young adult literature that were selected "Young Adults' Choices" in the yearly voting by teenagers conducted from 1987 to 1992. Each entry in the book includes bibliographic information, an annotation, and the year in which the book was chosen. Entries in the book are grouped by type or genre (adventure, family life, fantasy, friendship, health, history, mystery and crime, nature, personal growth, romance, science fiction, and sports). An author and a title index are attached. (RS)

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TEENS' FAVORITE BOOKS

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Young Adults' Choices 1987-1992

TEENS' FAVORITE BOOKS

Young Adults' Choices 1987-1992

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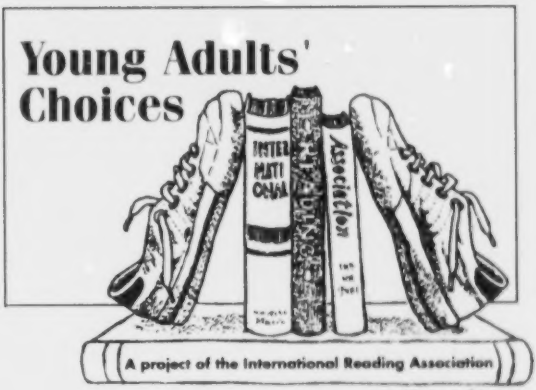

Logo illustration by Natalie Babbitt

The production of the Young Adults' Choices lists that appear in this book involved many years of work by IRA's Literature for Adolescents Committee and, most recently, the Young Adults' Choices Special Project group members. Many people in many different locations participated. In 1987 team leaders were Joanne Golden (Newark, DE), Pearl Goodwin (Jefferson County, Littleton, CO), Donna Ogle (Evanston, IL), and Barbara Samuels (Clear Lake, TX); chair of the Literature for Adolescents Committee for that year was Arlene Pillar. In 1988 team leaders were Joan Elliott (Indiana, PA), Pearl Goodwin, Donna Ogle, and Barbara Samuels; committee chair was Arlene Pillar. In 1989 team leaders were Brady Kelso (San Diego, CA), Arlene Mitchell (Cincinnati, OH), Joan Elliott, and Barbara Samuels; committee chair was Mary Dupuis. In 1990 team leaders were Saul Bachner (Wilmington, NC), Geri Yaccino and Chris Sherman (St. Charles, IL), Brady Kelso, and Arlene Mitchell; committee chair was Mary Dupuis. In 1991 team leaders were Kathleen Jongsma (San Antonio, TX), Barbara Kiefer (Eugene, OR), Russell Walsh (Glassboro, NJ), Saul Bachner, and Geri Yaccino and Chris Sherman; committee chair was Joan Elliott. In 1992 team leaders were Anne Kenney (Peterborough, NH), Lori Morgan (Anaheim, CA), Jane Owen (Fort Worth, TX), Chris Sherman (Elgin, IL), and Russell Walsh; special projects chair was Joan Elliott.

The lists included in this publication first appeared in the *Journal of Reading*, a copyrighted journal of the International Reading Association.

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Introduction

Most teenagers have a lot on their minds. Developing values and forming opinions, coping with the pressures of increasingly demanding schoolwork, making friends, establishing independence, dealing with physical changes, keeping up with the latest trends in everything from fashion to music—these are only a few of the things occupying young adults' time and attention. Given the turbulence of adolescence, it's not surprising that many teens put a low priority on reading.

Many teachers, parents, and literacy professionals, however, know that reading should be of vital importance to teenagers. The ability to read easily and well is, of course, crucial to success in all school subjects as well as to professional advancement later in life. But beyond the obvious practical value of reading lies another benefit: books can help teens cope with the turmoil, challenges, and problems they face as they grow up. What better way to learn about dealing with conflicts in families or between friends than to read about the experiences of other teens, both real and fictional? How better to supplement a history lesson than with a historical novel that brings the past to life? What could be a more enjoyable way to escape the pressures of the real world—if only for a few hours—than reading a thrilling fantasy or science fiction adventure? And how better to learn about what boys and girls really think of each other than to eavesdrop on characters in a book?

Adults may recognize all these benefits, but convincing busy and impatient teens of them can be difficult. That's where *Teens' Favorite Books* comes in. Included here are descriptions of more than a hundred books appropriate for young adult readers, complete with author and title indexes for easy reference. This annotated list can be used by teachers, librarians, parents, grandparents, and young readers alike—anyone who is looking for a book to grab and hold the interest

of a teenager. What makes this list unique is that these books were selected as "Young Adults' Choices" by teens themselves, in an annual project sponsored by the International Reading Association.

Each year since 1987 publishers have sent a total of 100 to 200 new books for young adults (excluding textbooks) to each of several test sites across the United States. At these sites teenagers read and evaluate the books and vote for their favorites; some 4,000 ballots are cast annually. The books with the most votes—about 30 each year—are selected as Young Adults' Choices. Then the test site team leaders and members of the IRA committee that administers the project prepare descriptions of the winners. The annotated list is published in the November issue of the *Journal of Reading* and is reproduced and widely circulated as a separate brochure.

Teens' Favorite Books lists all the Young Adults' Choices selections since the project's inception. Each entry includes bibliographic information about the book and an annotation; the Young Adults' Choices list on which the book first appeared is indicated by the initials YAC followed by the year. (Please note that the publishers' names and ISBNs refer to the original publications—hardcovers, except where indicated—evaluated at the test sites. In many cases, particularly for books from the earliest lists, paperback editions may now be available; in some cases, the original edition may be difficult to find or out of print. Librarians and bookstore employees should be able to provide current information on the availability of particular books. The bibliographic information here is provided simply as a starting point.) In order to make the book easier to use, entries are grouped by type or genre of publication. Teens, like all readers, go through phases—some may read science fiction exclusively for a while, and others may prefer mysteries or adventure stories. Of course, the categories given here are relatively subjective and do overlap a good deal; they should therefore be used accordingly. A teen who is interested in romance, for example, should be encouraged to browse not only through that section but also through "Personal Growth," "History," and even "Sports."

The intention of *Teens' Favorite Books* is to make the job of encouraging adolescents to read less of a challenge. If teens read books they enjoy, then they will enjoy reading: this is the first step toward making reading a high-priority activity in their hectic lives. All the books described here have been teen-tested by some 4,000 of nature's toughest critics. And whose recommendations are other teens more likely to listen to?

Adventure

The Adventures of High John the Conqueror

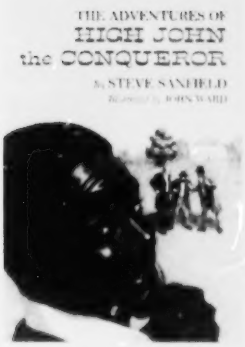
Steve Sanfield. Illustrated by John Ward. Orchard. ISBN 0-531-08407-8. YAC '91.

Sanfield has collected and retold these folktales of High John the Conquerer, a popular legend among blacks in the American South. Brer Rabbit stories were told by blacks and whites alike, but High John stories were enjoyed strictly by the slaves and later the free black citizens: he outwitted Old Master every time. Short introductions explain the customs or context for each story, and a bibliography is included. The book is an important resource for American history students who want to understand more about the lives of slaves and their masters.

The Blossoms Meet the Vulture Lady

Betsy Byars. Delacorte. ISBN 0-385-29485-9. YAC '88.

The Blossom family returns to print in this easy-going, humorous follow-up to *The Not-Just-Anybody Family*. When Junior Blossom hears that there is a reward of $100 for anyone who traps a coyote that escaped from a local zoo, he decides to build the perfect trap—and ends up trapped in his own cage. Unable to free himself, he is carried off by Mad Mary, also known as the Vulture Lady, who lives in a cave. The Blossoms "made me feel good inside," writes one fan of the book.



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Canyons

Gary Paulsen. Delacorte. ISBN 0-385-30153-7. YAC '92.

Fourteen-year-old Brennan discovers the skull of an Apache boy who died in 1864. He is driven to return the skull to a "medicine place" where its spirit can be released. Paulsen parallels Brennan's life with that of the Apache boy to tell a story of loneliness, trust, and the value of thorough research.

Dawn Rider

Jan Hudson. Philomel. ISBN 0-399-22178-6. YAC '92.

When the first horse is introduced to the Blackfoot tribe, Kit Fox is ecstatic—but the elders of the tribe are cautious. The horse is taken away to be trained. In secret, Kid Fox's friend Found Arrow helps her learn to master the animal. When her tribe is threatened by enemies, she must reveal her secret knowledge of horses to save her people and learns that the challenges offered by change are to be embraced rather than feared.

Ghost Island

Jan O'Donnell Klaveness. Macmillan. ISBN 0-02-750740-8. YAC '87.

Delia Pearce is looking forward to returning to the lake and Ghost Island where she and her father shared special times. She thinks that nothing has changed in their Canadian wilderness; however, on her arrival, she is greatly shocked.

Poachers and government agents battle one another, and armed rangers pursue Isaac, the Indian guide who was Delia's friend. Courageous Delia arrives and makes battle with evil. An action-packed, fast-paced adventure that inspired one reader to state, "It kept me so interested I didn't want to put the book down."

Going for the Big One

P.J. Petersen. Delacorte. ISBN 0-385-29453-0. YAC '88.

The three Bates teenagers are on their own when their stepmother runs out on them, leaving only $20. To avoid going to foster homes, they strike out through the Sierra mountains to find their father. They help a young drug dealer who has been shot and have other harrowing adventures. The book is "unpredictable" and "adventurous," according to young readers.

It Happened at Cecilia's

Erika Tamar. Atheneum. ISBN 0-689-31478-7. YAC '91.

Life is a challenging adventure for Andy Szabo, whose widowed father runs Cecilia's, a Hungarian-Cajun restaurant in New York's Greenwich Village. Andy must face a bully at school and work through his feelings about his father's new fiancée. Add some sinister threats to Andy's father from organized crime and the novel becomes almost as spicy as the dishes served at Cecilia's.

More Tales of Uncle Remus: Further Adventures of Brer Rabbit, His Friends, Enemies, and Others

Julius Lester. Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. Dial. ISBN 0-8037-0420-8. YAC '90.

That old trickster Brer Rabbit is back in more tales cleverly retold by Julius Lester. Once again he's in rare form: outfoxing Brer Fox, matching wits with other animals and Mr. Man (and almost always besting them), courting the ladies, seeking revenge, and always laughing. These tales carry on the American folk tradition with fresh wit.

Jacket photographs copyright © 1990 by Ruth Wright Paulsen; design by Fritz Metsch. From Woodsong *published by Bradbury Press.*

Woodsong

Gary Paulsen. Bradbury. ISBN 0-02-77021-9. YAC '92.

Whether he is flying off the back of his sled and bouncing across the ice or being taught lessons by sled dogs, life for this author is always an adventure. Paulsen describes many incidents in this autobiography, including encounters with wolves and bears and an account of his first Iditarod dogsled race across Alaska.

Family Life

Across the Grain

Jean Ferris. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. ISBN 0-374-30030-5.
YAC '92.

This story about tragedy and hardship in one family also deals with loss and growing up. Will is just 17 when his mother dies and his older sister, Paige, is appointed his legal guardian. Paige is not really grown up herself—she moves Will around, changes plans, and impulsively goes from scheme to scheme. Will learns to separate himself from Paige so he can go to college and begin to live his own life.

Answer Me, Answer Me

Irene Bennett Brown. Atheneum. ISBN 0-689-31114-1.
YAC '87.

When her grandmother dies without telling her who her parents are, Bryn follows a lead in a newspaper article that takes her to Greendale, Kansas, to search for her family. Supported by money Gram left her, Bryn stays in Greendale to track down her relatives, encountering discouraging setbacks that almost cause her to abandon the search. With the support of a cousin, she finally traces her mother to a nearby city and together they slowly begin to build a relationship. One teen comments, "I feel that the ending is very good. It resolves her past but allows you to think what will happen in her future."

Count Me In

Christine McDonnell. Penguin. ISBN 0-670-80417-7. YAC '88.

Katie feels she doesn't fit in anywhere. Her mother and stepfather are going to have a baby, and her father's photography career prevents her from living with him. Eventually, her father's girlfriend helps her gain insight and maturity. Readers describe this book as funny but true to life.

Freddie the Thirteenth

Sandy Miller. NAL/Signet. ISBN 0-451-13791-4 (paperback). YAC '87.

Freddie, the 13th in a family of 16 children, is in her second year of high school. She has to face growing up, adjusting to high school and first love, and gradually she comes to appreciate her brothers and sisters. One reader comments, "The story was realistic and humorous. It showed the advantages and disadvantages of having a big family."

Gillyflower

Ellen Howard. Atheneum. ISBN 0-689-31274-1. YAC '88.

Gilly Harper often hid in her secret place and made up stories about her imaginary princess, Juliana. In this way, she escaped mentally from the ugly secret that her father was sexually abusing her. The reader rejoices when Gilly learns that "sometimes, painful things must be done to bring about happy endings. Sometimes, you have to take a chance."

Hank

James Sauer. Delacorte. ISBN 0-385-30034-4. YAC '92.

Sixteen-year-old, self-centered Richard has much to learn about life, and his teacher in this humorous, poignant narrative is his younger brother, Hank. Lighter subjects of friendships between the sexes and sports combine with darker ones of homelessness, death, and forgiveness to make a memorable novel for eighth and ninth graders.

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Holding Me Here

Pam Conrad. Harper & Row (HarperCollins). ISBN 0-06-021339-6. YAC '88.

By snooping, Robin discovers that Mary, a boarder in her mother's house, has left her two children. Robin becomes obsessed with bringing Mary's family back together, not realizing that Mary is hiding from an abusive husband. In dealing with her guilt, Robin realizes her hurt and confusion over her own parents' divorce. "Funny, sad, frightening, and very involving" are readers' descriptions of this book.

The Impact Zone

Ray Maloney. Delacorte. ISBN 0-385-29447-6. YAC '88.

Jim, age 15, dislikes his stepfather and idolizes his own father, a surfing photographer who left when Jim was only 9. Six years later he invites Jim to spend Christmas with him, but Jim's stepfather cancels the trip. Jim runs away to Hawaii and proves himself by surfing the treacherous Hawaiian pipeline. Along the way he learns that he has the courage both to face physical challenges and to make adult decisions.

The Jellyfish Season

Mary Downing Hahn. Clarion. ISBN 0-89919-344-7. YAC '87.

The summer before Kathleen's 13th birthday is filled with

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troubles. She has to spend the summer living with her unpleasant cousin on the Chesapeake Bay because her father has lost his job at the steel mill. Her mother expects her to babysit her three younger sisters, and instead of appreciation, she receives criticism. On her birthday, Kathleen and her mother confront their problems and there is hope that the family will be able to adjust to a new life. An enthusiastic young reader describes the book as "interesting, funny, and a real non-stop page turner."

Kentucky Daughter

Carol J. Scott. Clarion. ISBN 0-89919-330-7. YAC '87.

When Mary Fred Pratley leaves her depressed Kentucky mining town to live with her aunt and uncle in Virginia, she just exchanges old problems for new ones. Searching for the education that will help her fulfill her dream of becoming an English teacher, she has to deal with the unwanted attention of Mr. Dolsey, her own English teacher. Mary Fred learns the hard way to become independent and to appreciate her roots.

The Last April Dancers

Jean Thesman. Houghton Mifflin. ISBN 0-395-43024-0. YAC '89.

Sometimes Cat was the only one who seemed concerned about her father's odd behavior. When it's too late, Cat feels responsible. Her new relationship with "the boy next door" does not help her answer the questions about her father's mental illness and eventual suicide. Who was Sheila and why was she important to Cat's father?

Leave Me Alone, Ma

Carol Snyder. Bantam Starfire. ISBN 0-553-05442-2. YAC '89.

Jaimie Newman does not feel that she has a family because her mother has a busy career and her father spends half of his time in Hollywood. Although she has an adoring grandmother, Jaimie often feels neglected. She says "Leave me alone, Ma" even though she wants her parents to be there for her as she struggles with new experiences, including her attraction to her best friend's brother.

Molly By Any Other Name

Jean Davies Okimoto. Scholastic. ISBN 0-590-42993-0. YAC '92.

Molly Jane Fletcher is adopted. Her parents are kind and loving, but Molly needs to find out about herself, her birth mother, and her heritage. This story gives readers a glimpse of the Japanese-American culture, as well as the yearnings of adopted children. Parents could read this with their teenagers for enjoyment and a discussion about cultural enlightenment and the paradoxes of emotions that all teenagers experience.

The Music Box Christmas

Rosalie Maggio. Morrow. ISBN 0-688-08851-1. YAC '92.

This is an inviting story regardless of the season, as told by the main character, Nick. The recent death of his grandmother, his mother's mourning, and Nick's own concern for his younger brother and sister make a joyous Christmas doubtful until Nick figures out how to make it happen. This is enjoyable reading, especially for middle school students.

My Mother's Boyfriend and Me

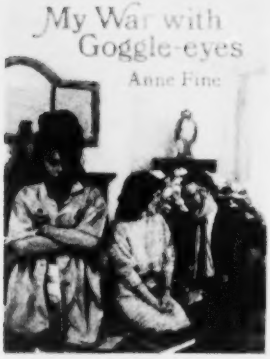
Alice Jacoby. Dial. ISBN 0-8037-0200-0. YAC '89.

Life is different for Laurie when her mother's boyfriend, Blue, moves in. Having a man around causes a loss of privacy and changes the mother-daughter relationship. A sinister element is added when Blue begins paying unwanted attention to Laurie. A sensitive, honest novel about a difficult issue.

My War with Goggle-eyes

Anne Fine. Joy Street/Little, Brown. ISBN 0-316-28314-2. YAC '91.

Kitty recounts her reactions to her divorced mother's friend Gerald, whom she nicknames "Goggle-eyes." Her initial resentment, contrasted with her realization of his place in their lives, eventually leads to acceptance. This humorous narrative can complement books about single-parent families.



Jacket illustration by Rick Mujica for Anne Fine's My War with Goggle-eyes. *Reproduced by permission of the publisher, Joy Street Books/Little, Brown.*

Patchwork Summer

Kristi D. Holl. Atheneum. ISBN 0-689-31347-0. YAC '89.

A year after 13-year-old Randi's mother walked out on her family, she comes home. After holding the family together for a year, Randi can't relinquish the role of being in charge. She doesn't realize the depth of her bitterness until she literally makes herself sick. A good look at working through family problems.

Secrets Not Meant to Be Kept

Gloria D. Miklowitz. Delacorte. ISBN 0-385-29491-3. YAC '89.

This realistic book covers a disturbing topic that is of great concern to a tragically large number of young people: sexual abuse of children. This is not a book for the immature reader.

The Solitary

Lynn Hall. Scribner's. ISBN 0-684-18724-8. YAC '88.

Jane Cahill has lived an unpleasant life with her aunt and uncle since her mother killed her father when she was five. She realizes her dream of returning to the two-room shack that belonged to her family and raising rabbits as her father had done. Her story is one of determination, hard work, and eventual success, and she finally comes to know her mother who is still in prison.

A Solitary Blue

Cynthia Voigt. Atheneum. ISBN 0-689-31008-0. YAC '87.

As a reader observes, "This book deals with a very common problem." Jeff Greene lives alone with his cold and unaffectionate father, the Professor, because his free-thinking mother, Melody, left home to "save the world and its starving children" when he was seven years old. When Melody invites Jeff to Charleston for the summer, he becomes thoroughly entranced; however, this changes when Melody betrays her son's love. This book is particularly notable for its skillfully delineated characters.

A Solitary Secret

Patricia Hermes. HBJ. ISBN 0-15-277190-5. YAC '87.

The 14-year-old protagonist lives with her father in an isolated area in the country and keeps house for him. One night her father begins to come to her bed. She pretends to be asleep, but she feels it is her fault and she is not going to tell. She makes friends with a girl at school who has a terrible secret of her own—she is going to die. One teen says, "This book shows that people who have been molested are not alone."

Surviving

Elizabeth Faucher. Point/Scholastic. ISBN 0-590-33664-9 (paperback). YAC '87.

Lonnie and Rick's love stems from the distrust and loneliness both teenagers feel at home. Lonnie has attempted suicide before; when Rick discovers that his father is having an affair, he loses all respect for and trust in him and decides that life is no longer worth living. The teens' double suicide shatters both families, whose members begin to reevaluate and rebuild their lives. The author appeals to the reader to be aware of suicide warning signs and what action may be taken to help prevent it. One reader says the book shows "the feelings of family and friends after the kids commit suicide. I learned that by killing yourself, you also hurt the people around you."

This Stranger, My Father

Robert Hawks. Houghton Mifflin. ISBN 0-395-44089-0. YAC '90.

This is a thriller about a cross-country chase filled with good guys and bad guys. Patty's high school world is shattered when her dad is arrested and she finds that everything she knew about her family is false. Danger and teenage self-discovery make this book excellent reading.

The Year without Michael

Susan Beth Pfeffer. Bantam Starfire. ISBN 0-553-05430-9. YAC '89.

Was 14-year-old Michael kidnapped, murdered, or did he run away? His family waits for him to return for dinner—the next day, by his birthday, maybe by Christmas. Jody, her younger sister, Kay, and their parents alternate between feeling responsible and blaming each other for Michael's disappearance.

You Take the High Road

Mary K. Pershall. Dial. ISBN 0-8037-0700-2. YAC '92.

Australia provides the backdrop for the story of Samantha, a bright 15-year-old who has always wanted her parents to have another child. Unexpectedly, her wish comes true and Sam's life seems full, until a tragic accident robs her of her happiness. With the help of a sensitive teacher and a special boyfriend, Sam eventually finds the strength to work through the pain and embark on a new life. This honest, compelling book is popular with readers entering high school.

Fantasy and the Supernatural

Appointment with a Stranger

Jean Thesman. Houghton Mifflin. ISBN 0-395-49215-7. YAC '91.

Keller Parrish has difficulty with school activities because of her asthma. She meets Tom Hurley and his dog, Troy, who help her meet the demands of a new school and to make friends. Something is odd about Tom, and old newspapers provide the clue—he is a ghost from the past. This book speaks of adjusting to a new school, dealing with illness, and the likelihood of encoutering a voice from the pâst.

Blade of the Poisoner

Douglas Hill. McElderry. ISBN 0-689-50418-7. YAC '89.

This fantasy begins when Jarral hears a terrible sound disrupting the peaceful forest of Wellwood. He soon discovers his village has been destroyed by evil Prince Mephtik the Poisoner. Jarral and three friends journey to the heart of Mephtik's fortress to try to overturn the death sentence that has been placed on Jarral. The reader is carried along on this perilous journey.

The Boy Who Reversed Himself

William Sleator. Dutton. ISBN 0-525-44276-6. YAC '88.

Strange things were happening to Laura: someone was getting into her locker, papers were appearing inside with all the writing reversed, and whoever was responsible knew things about her that no one could possibly know. Inquisitive Laura becomes suspicious of Omar, the new boy next door, and he trusts her with his secrets. Readers will find this story mystifying, thought-provoking, and unusual.

Dealing with Dragons

Patricia C. Wrede. HBJ. ISBN 0-15-222900-0. YAC '92.

What do you do when you have been reared as a proper princess, the youngest daughter of a proper king and queen, the sister of six proper princesses, and you find your life as a princess incredibly dull? When you are forbidden to continue your lessons in fencing, cooking, magic, and economics, you run away from home and meet up with the fascinating female dragon, Kazull. Readers will enjoy Cimorene's antics and will want to compare this princess to other princesses they have met in fiction.

Dragon's Milk

Susan Fletcher. Atheneum. ISBN 0-689-31579-1. YAC '91.

This fantasy deals with a young girl's self-discovery. Dragons return to Kaeldra's land to care for their hatchlings at the same time that her foster sister is dying from a disease curable only by dragon's milk. Kaeldra's grandmother sends her to buy some milk from the dragons, and Kaeldra finds she is able to communicate with them. This book, particularly appropriate for middle or junior high students, has vivid descriptions that draw young readers into a strange world.

Fade

Robert Cormier. Delacorte. ISBN 0-440-50057-5. YAC '90.

Paul Moreau has inherited the gift (or the curse) of the "fade": he is able to become unseen. The gift has kept him

isolated and reclusive; the fade can also be treacherous and destructive. This novel, set in Quebec in 1938, mixes suspense with the supernatural and invites readers to explore the fictional possibilities. Because of adult situations it depicts, the book is recommended for 11th and 12th grade students.

Heart of Valor

L.J. Smith. Macmillan. ISBN 0-02-785861-8. YAC '92.

This rollicking sequel to *The Night of the Solstice* pits the four Hodges-Bradley kids and their friend, sorceress Morgana Shee, against powers of evil in the parallel universe of Wildworld. A winning combination of Arthurian lore, fantasy, mystery, adventure, and humor make this book popular, particularly with junior high students.

Mad, Mad Monday

Herma Silverstein. Lodestar/Dutton. ISBN 0-525-67239-7. YAC '90.

Monday is the ghost of a boy who died in the 1950s. He returns when Miranda summons him with a magic potion she had originally concocted to make a boy at school fall for her. This implausible plot works, making a hilarious and fun story that blends magic and spirits with the problems of being a teenager.

Mattimeo

Brian Jacques. Illustrated by Gary Chalk. Philomel. ISBN 0-399-21741-X. YAC '92.

This is the second of Jacques's rollicking fantasies about the animals of Redwall Abbey to be chosen for the Young Adults' Choices list. (The first, *Mossflower*, is described later in this section.) When the evil fox Slagar kidnaps Mattimeo, son of Matthias the warrior mouse, and four other young Redwallers, Matthias leads a motley crew of inhabitants of the Mossflower Woods to rescue them. Each chapter is an action-packed cliff-hanger.

Mind-Hold

Wilanne Schneider Belden. HBJ/Gulliver. ISBN 0-15-254280-9. YAC '89.

After an earthquake devastates much of the western U.S., 13-year-old Carson takes his 9-year-old sister, Caryl, to the desert. Caryl is a telekinetic and Carson is an empath who is responsible for her. They are taken in by the leader of the Rightway religious community, who refuses to let them leave. Carson escapes, but must decide whether to return and save his sister in this story of courage and survival.

Mossflower

Brian Jacques. Illustrated by Gary Chalk. Philomel. ISBN 0-399-21549-2. YAC '90.

This action-packed epic recounts the adventures of Martin the Warrior Mouse as he inspires the oppressed creatures of Mossflower Woods to overthrow the evil wild cat, Tsarmina. Readers captivated by fantasy will revel in the high adventure of daring rescues and the cleverly drawn animal characters of this delightful "prequel" to Jacques's popular *Redwall*.

The Pearl of the Soul of the World

Meredith Ann Pierce. Joy Street/Little, Brown. ISBN 0-374-70743-0. YAC '92.

This book brings Pierce's "Darkangel" trilogy (*The Darkangel* and *A Gathering of Gargoyles* are the first two books) to a bittersweet conclusion. Ariel's final victory over the White Witch is not without its price, as she learns that her ultimate destiny means the sacrifice of love. Ariel, Irrylath, and all the major characters of the trilogy make choices that will govern their future and that of their world. This story will appeal to fantasy lovers of high school age—and up.

The Revenge of the Wizard's Ghost

John Bellairs. Dial. ISBN 0-8037-0170-5. YAC '87.

"A perfect example of good winning over evil, and it was exciting," explains one reader. This fourth adventure about 13-year-old Johnny Dixon is filled with mystery and evil

spirits. Johnny is dying in the hospital, possessed by the ghost of wicked Warren Windrow. Professor Childermass and Fergie frantically search the Windrow estate for something to save their friend. "It was pretty thrilling at times," another young reader comments.

The Shadow Warrior

Pat Zettner. Atheneum. ISBN 0-689-31486-8. YAC '92.

When underlords burn her home, Llyndreth begins a dangerous mission to find her brother. While following her brother's army in pursuit of the enemy, she encounters magic and mysteries. She helps the injured Zorn, which dooms the fiercely proud Shadow Warrior to becoming an outcast. Unusual words, descriptions of people and places, and the writer's style take the reader deep into a fantastic world of giants and goblins.

Sisters, Long Ago

Peg Kehret. Cobblehill. ISBN 0-525-65021-0. YAC '92.

When Willow Paige nearly drowns on her 13th birthday, she has visions of herself struggling for air in a past life in ancient Egypt where she is Kalos, a young girl living by the Nile. Her rescuer in these visions is Tiy, a beloved sister. This leads Willow to an exploration of reincarnation and mental telepathy and sets her on a quest to give hope and strength to her sister Sarah, who has leukemia and seems to have lost the will to live.

Speak to the Rain

Helen K. Passey. Atheneum. ISBN 0-689-31489-2. YAC '91.

The spirits of a lost and destroyed Native American tribe have chosen nine-year-old Karen Miles to lead them from their century-long imprisonment in the lake to the next world and their reunion with the Salmon people. Karen, eager for her own reunion with her recently killed mother, falls under their influence and agrees to forfeit her life. Her grieving father and courageous sister fight to save her.

Splashman

Lydia Weaver. NAL/Signet. ISBN 0-451-14020-6 (paperback). YAC '87.

Peter, the son of a mermaid and a human father, swims ashore in Hamlin Beach and soon is friends with everyone in town. One night Peter and ten other kids disappear from the beach. As the adventure unfolds, the action moves to the Caribbean and finally to Greece. Jane is attracted to Peter but has to compete with another beautiful girl. Readers comment that the book is "full of adventure in and out of water" and "so descriptive that you can picture the story in your mind."

Stray

A.N. Wilson. Orchard. ISBN 0-531-05840-9. YAC '91.

An old tomcat, who has spent most of his life on the road, recounts his experiences to his grandkitten. The old stray tells of protecting himself against the cruelty of the "two-legged." Over the years he was trapped in a pet shop, sold to indifferent humans, thrown from a speeding car, and used in scientific experiments. But he also lived for a time with kind nuns, developed a close relationship with his brother, and spent a happy time with a loving tabby. This cat's-eye view of the world, by one of England's most respected writers, offers a glimpse of the lives of cats and unique insight into our own lives.

A Tale of Time City

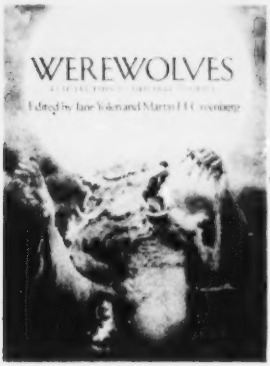
Diana Wynne Jones. Greenwillow. ISBN 0-688-07315-8. YAC '89.

Vivian, mistaken for the Time Lady, has been kidnapped and taken to Time City. Elements of history and time travel have been combined for this exciting adventure, in which the ages of iron, gold, silver, and lead are explored by the protagonists in their efforts to save Time City.

Werewolves: A Collection of Original Stories

Edited by Jane Yolen and Martin H. Greenberg. Harper & Row (HarperCollins). ISBN 0-06-026798-4. YAC '90.

These 15 stories by well-known fantasy writers offer a wide



Jacket art © 1988 by Gary Lippincott for Werewolves: A Collection of Original Stories, *edited by Jane Yolen and Martin H. Greenberg. Reproduced by permission of HarperCollins Publishers.*

spectrum of werewolves: some frightening, some sympathetic, and all intriguing and attractive to young adult readers. Fantasy lovers will enjoy the characters and their transformations. The short stories are a quick read and each story can be enjoyed independently of the others, so this book is ideal for reluctant readers.

Wise Child

Monica Furlong. Knopf. ISBN 0-394-99105-2. YAC '89.

Juniper understands the mysteries of healing and the interrelationships of all living things. She also has the ability to talk to animals and fly. Gently but firmly she teaches Wise Child the value of work and the strength of love. But when a smallpox epidemic and starvation threaten their town, these witches become scapegoats.

Wish Come True

Ann Gabhart. Avon. ISBN 0-380-75653-6 (paperback). YAC '90.

Stern, humorless Aunt Reva offers Alyssa anything she would like from the attic for her 15th birthday. When Alyssa chooses an antique mirror, Aunt Reva warns that it has a strange power. Could she be right? Each time Alyssa looks in the mirror and makes a wish—to be prettier, to be noticed by a boy, to get singing lessons—the wish comes true. Alyssa begins to worry that some careless little wish might cause a tragedy. A lively, suspenseful page-turner.

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Friendship

The Accident

Todd Strasser. Delacorte. ISBN 0-440-50061-3. YAC '90.

This fast-moving story describes the deaths of four teenagers in a drunk-driving accident. Other issues presented include relationships with best friends, feeling tied down in a relationship, honesty in politics, the importance of truth, jumping to conclusions, and blaming others without evidence.

Babyface

Norma Fox Mazer. Morrow. ISBN 0-688-08752-3. YAC '92.

Toni and Julie have always been best friends. Julie's parents are on the verge of divorce, and she goes away for the summer with her mother. Toni, known as Babyface, is left to her own self-discoveries: she attracts a boy, learns to understand her sister's and her parents' problems, and grows up. When Julie returns, Toni has changed. This book explores friendship, family life, divorce, and maturing.

Don't Care High

Gordon Korman. Scholastic. ISBN 0-590-33322-4. YAC '89.

No one tries out for basketball or even bothers to sign up for classes at Don Carey High School. Bulletin boards still have signs from 1941 asking volunteers to knit afghans for England. No one has run for student body president since 1956. Paul and Sheldon, neither of whom has been at the school long enough to be corrupted by the apathy, decide to

elect bizarre, silent Mike Otis as the unlikely president. "Don't Care High" becomes galvanized in this hilarious story.

Face the Dragon

Joyce Sweeney. Delacorte. ISBN 0-385-30164-2. YAC '92.

Six gifted teens join together to face a variety of personal challenges. After reading and discussing *Beowulf* in English class, each of the six reveals a personal dragon that keeps that person from being all he or she can be. Readers will enjoy learning how these teens solve their problems.

I Never Asked You to Understand Me

Barthe DeClements. Penguin. ISBN 0-670-80768-0. YAC '88.

Didi, who is trying to deal with her mother's illness and eventual death, is sent to an alternative school. She meets Stacy, whose father is sexually abusing her. Didi and Stacy work at trying to feel good again and finding solutions to their problems. Teenagers feel this is a realistic story: "You could put yourself in the characters' place."

Just One Friend

Lynn Hall. Scribner's. ISBN 0-684-18471-0. YAC '87.

Dory, a slow learner, resents being sent to a special school. But when she is assigned to a mainstreaming program at the high school, she feels a real panic. Her only friend, Robin, has found another friend but Dory plans to break up that friendship so Robin will be with her on the first day of school. The plan results in a tragedy, and Dory is placed in a special home where there is hope she will adjust and make friends. The book's message, according to one reader, is "that people who are slow learners have feelings just like the rest of the people in the world.... I enjoyed it and a friend of mine even asked to read it!"

Life without Friends

Ellen Emerson White. Scholastic. ISBN 0-590-33781-5. YAC '89.

Why care for people if all they do is leave you? Whether the reason is death, divorce, or betrayal, it makes no differ-

ence to a girl in pain. Beverly believes life is better without friends—you don't have to trust, forgive, or be forgiven. This novel is truthful, involving, and full of insights for teenagers and adults. One teen comments, "Sometimes I feel life is like that."

Making Half Whole

Terry Wolfe Phelan. NAL/Signet. ISBN 0-451-13630-6 (paperback). YAC '87.

Allison is always the nothing-special new kid in town. She is stuck in a New Jersey suburb and has nothing to do and no one to talk to—until she meets the twins, Jane and Marnie. For the first time, making friends seems easy. Marnie's life-threatening kidney disease puts Allison's friendship to the test. Says one young reader, "This book is about courage, loyalty, and caring for people. It talks about true-life problems that really matter in the world."

Only Birds and Angels Fly

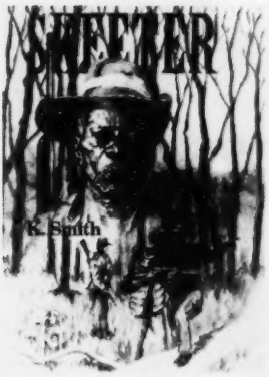
Joshua Horwitz. Harper & Row (HarperCollins). ISBN 0-06-022599-8. YAC '87.

Chris Jordan and Danny Kaufman attend junior high and throughout their pranks and stunts, they are true friends. But when they renew their friendship years later, they learn that they have diverse attitudes about life. Their story, which is told in three major parts with lyrics from songs by Jimi Hendrix introducing each one, takes Danny to college and Chris into a troubled world of drugs and tragedy. An enthusiastic reader remarks, "I'm looking forward to reading more books by Joshua Horwitz."

Pretty Penny Farm

Joanne Hoppe. Morrow. ISBN 0-688-07201-1. YAC '89.

Popular, horse-loving Beth must spend the summer in New Hampshire with overweight Sophie. Beth becomes involved with horse racing, with mysteries surrounding some unsavory characters, and with college-age Dave. She grows fond of Sophie and learns about herself and her "in crowd" friends.



Jacket © 1989 by David Dircks for K. Smith's Skeeter. *Reproduced by permission of Houghton Mifflin Company.*

Say Goodnight, Gracie

Julie Reece Deaver. Harper & Row (HarperCollins). ISBN 0-06-021418-X. YAC '90.

Morgan and Jimmy were inseparable friends for 17 years. Neither could remember a time when the other wasn't available for laughing, teasing, caring, and tears. Suddenly Jimmy is gone, killed by a drunk driver, and Morgan must learn to cope. This is a sensitively written book about relationships and stages of grief. Readers can discuss Morgan's difficulty in learning to let go, and how her friends and family help her in her grieving.

Skeeter

K. Smith. Houghton Mifflin. ISBN 0-395-49603-9. YAC '91.

Skeeter, an elderly black man, shows 16-year-old Steve Foster and Joey Ryder the road to maturity and simple decency as he teaches them about guns, animals, and, above all, people. Skeeter is unforgettable for his supreme confidence and pride. Steve and Joey learn much about race relations and respect. The book can be followed up with books about Skeeter's hero, Jackie Robinson.

The Strange Night Writing of Jessamine Colter

Cynthia C. DeFelice. Macmillan. ISBN 0-02-726451-3. YAC '90.

This short novel is about a special friendship that develops between Jessie Colter, an elderly widow, and Callie Williams, a young girl to whom Jessie teaches the art of

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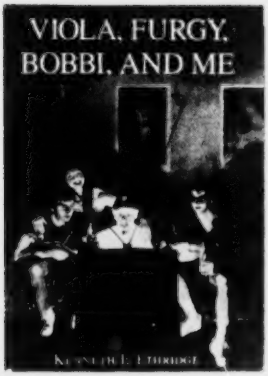


Jacket art by Peter Catalanotto. Reproduced by permission.

calligraphy. Jessie has always chronicled the events of her small town through her calligraphy, but one day she discovers that she has the power to know the future. In spite of her problems with an alcoholic mother, Callie strives to make something of herself through hard work, determination, and Jessie's guidance.

Viola, Furgy, Bobbi, and Me

Kenneth E. Ethridge. Holiday House. ISBN 0-8234-0746-2. YAC '91.

What makes this book so much fun is the unique friendship that develops among three likeable teenagers and a senior citizen with a penchant for baseball. There's humor, pathos, and suspense as the teens rally around Viola to thwart her daugher's schemes to place her in a nursing home. Strong themes of friendship and loyalty will hold the interest of junior high readers.

Health

Emotional Illness in Your Family: Helping Your Relative, Helping Yourself

Harvey R. Greenberg. Macmillan. ISBN 0-02-736921-8. YAC '91.

Today's adolescents must deal with many complex problems within their families. The instances shared in this book help readers understand that the key to many of their problems is realizing that they are not alone. A bibliography and list of mental health organizations are included. Teens might be inspired to do further reading to learn about emotional illnesses.

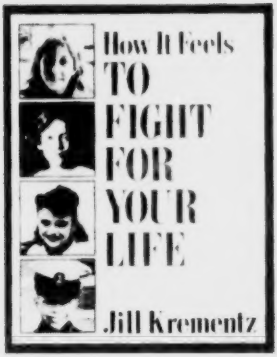
How It Feels to Fight for Your Life

Jill Krementz. Illustrated with photos by the author. Joy Street/Little, Brown. ISBN 0-316-50364-9. YAC '91.

Fourteen young people, ranging in age from 7 through 16, tell how they battle the pain and uncertainty of their life-threatening diseases and medical conditions. Each section includes black-and-white photos of the individual child and a frank and moving account of how the disease has changed the child's life and relationships with other people. Discussions of the children's courage, their strategies for handling their illnesses, and the way other people treat them are logical follow-ups after reading.

Smart Choices

Nancy J. Kolodny, Robert C. Kolodny, and Thomas E. Bratter. Little, Brown. ISBN 0-316-50163-8. YAC '88.



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The essays in this ideal reference for teens in crisis provide no-nonsense advice on handling parents, siblings, school problems, drugs, sex, and alcohol. The advice is often a series of steps or questions to answer. The book's philosophy is framed by an understanding of the temptations surrounding adolescents.

Sugar Isn't Everything

Willo Davis Roberts. Atheneum. ISBN 0-689-31316-0. YAC '89.

Amy sneaks cookies and sandwiches all the time—not unusual for a teenager. But after she collapses on the floor in a coma, she learns that she has diabetes. Her emotional but realistic reactions to this disease that won't go away are chronicled as she comes to adjust to her condition.

Will You Be My POSSLQ?

Eve Bunting. HBJ. ISBN 0-15-297399-0. YAC '89.

This novel deals with cancer and family problems. Jamie, the recovering cancer patient, struggles to redirect her life and complete college. Her family has difficulty accepting her situation and she is afraid to tell new friends, especially her male roommate.

History: Fiction and Nonfiction

After the Dancing Days

Margaret I. Rostkowski. Harper & Row (HarperCollins). ISBN 0-06-025078-X. YAC '88.

Thirteen-year-old Annie faces the horror of war when her father, a doctor, returns from the battlefields of France in 1919 to work in a veterans' hospital. There Annie meets Andrew, a young soldier who has been severely burned. As Annie learns to see past the disfigured faces and maimed bodies, she comes to understand heroism and patriotism. One reader feels that this novel pictures "the tragedies of real life."

An Album of the Vietnam War

Don Lawson. Illustrated with photographs. Franklin Watts. ISBN 0-531-10139-8. YAC '88.

This illustrated history traces the war from Ho Chi Minh's declaration of Vietnam's independence from France in 1945 to the withdrawal of U.S. troops in 1973. It describes the role of the U.S., the nature of the war itself, and the way the American public grew increasingly opposed to U.S. involvement. Concluding with a look at postwar issues, the book is "fact-filled and easy to understand," according to one reader.

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The American Fighter

Enzo Angelucci and Peter Bowers. Illustrated with photographs. Orion. ISBN 0-517-56588-9. YAC '89.

This enormous book is a history of the development of fighter airplanes in the U.S. from 1917 to 1985. The book is full of pictures and capsule stories of exciting moments in military history—from World War I dogfights to the most recent futuristic craft.

Bloods: An Oral History of the Vietnam War by Black Veterans

Edited by Wallace Terry. Illustrated with photographs. Random House. ISBN 0-394-53028-4. YAC '87.

Twenty black veterans of the Vietnam War share their war experiences in their own words. The veterans range from combat soldier to platoon leader, from officers' servant to aerial photographer, and include rich and poor, wounded and prisoner. Each tells his own story about combat, the senselessness of war itself, and the problems encountered when he returns home. One reader says, "After reading *Bloods*, I began to understand veterans' problems, because of their traumatic experiences. I also learned about military strategies on both sides, their weapons, and what really went on."

Bold Journey

Charles Bohner. Houghton Mifflin. ISBN 0-395-36691-7. YAC '87.

Fictional 18-year-old Hugh McNeal joins the Lewis and Clark expedition to find a Northwest passage. The westward journey up the Missouri River and across the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean is filled with adventures, such as meeting a grizzly and shooting the river rapids. Through Hugh's eyes the reader witnesses the colorful personalities of Lewis and Clark and also meets native peoples of different tribes. A young reader feels that "the book is good because it is not only enjoyable, but it tells the history."

A Circle Unbroken

Sollace Hotze. Clarion. ISBN 0-89919-733-7. YAC '90.

Set in Missouri in the 1840s, this novel vividly depicts the emotional predicament of Rachel Porter, a girl captured by Sioux Indians as a child but returned to her white family as a teenager. The conflict arising from her life in two worlds is portrayed, as is Rachel's inner journey toward understanding and fulfillment.

Code Name Kris

Carol Matas. Scribner's. ISBN 0-684-19208-X. YAC '92.

This sequel to *Lisa's War* (described later in this section) can be enjoyed on its own merit as historical fiction about the Danish resistance during World War II. Jesper tells his story as he awaits interrogation and possible torture for sabotage. Themes include courage, injustice, the horrors of war, and loss of a loved one.

Dear America: Letters Home from Vietnam

Edited by Bernard Edelman. Pocket Books. ISBN 0-671-65684-8 (paperback). YAC '88.

This book is more than a collection of letters—it is a gut-wrenching view of human beings living in a world with more questions than answers. These letters, from more than 100 men and women stationed in Vietnam, tell a story more real and powerful than any piece of fiction. A postscript at the end of each letter tells what became of the writer or the family. Many of the letter writers were not

much older than one teen who comments, "This book really got to me."

Exploring the Titanic

Robert D. Ballard. Illustrated with photographs. Scholastic. ISBN 0-590-41953-6. YAC '90.

Down you'll dive through the icy waters of the North Atlantic to the rusty remains of the *Titanic*, a mute testimony to the ultimate power of nature over technology. The chilling tale of the 1912 sinking of the "unsinkable" ocean liner is coupled with an account of the wreck's discovery nearly three quarters of a century later. Readable text and remarkable pictures make this a must for teen readers.

Fallen Angels

Walter Dean Myers. Scholastic. ISBN 0-590-40942-5. YAC '90.

Perry is fighting in Vietnam, hoping to return home alive. This highly realistic novel captures the thoughts and feelings of young men struggling for survival and tells vividly of the heartbreaking consequences of war.

Heroes of the Challenger

Daniel Cohen and Susan Cohen. Archway. ISBN 0-671-62948-4 (paperback). YAC '88.

This book gives readers a greater insight into the personal and professional backgrounds of the individuals involved in the space shuttle *Challenger* disaster. Besides providing a sense of this great tragedy, the book gives a brief review of the past and future of the American space program.

"I Touch the Future..."

Robert T. Hohler. Random House. ISBN 0-394-55721-2. YAC '88.

The author, a journalist from *Challenger* astronaut Christa McAuliffe's hometown newspaper, interviewed her almost daily during her seven months of training. The main focus is on events following Christa's application to NASA. The book details how one ordinary woman, a teacher, met extraordinary challenges but died tragically. "Christa and the

other six astronauts will always be a part of my life," comments one reader.

The Last Silk Dress

Ann Rinaldi. Holiday House. ISBN 0-8234-0690-3. YAC '90.

Susan's brother, Lucien, and his Yankee friend, Tim, are in conflict over the U.S. Civil War. Susan helps collect silk dresses to make a balloon to spy on the Yankees, but gradually finds herself questioning the social system the Confederacy is fighting to preserve. This excellent novel deals with treason, death, love, and hurt from the point of view of a girl growing up in the South.

Lisa's War

Carol Matas. Scribner's. ISBN 0-684-19010-9. YAC '91.

Set during the Nazi occupation of Denmark, this novel gives us a view of the Holocaust through the eyes of Lisa, a Jewish teenager. As the lives of Lisa and her family and friends are affected by the growing horrors of Hitler's "Final Solution," Lisa joins the Danish resistance movement and gains maturity, a profound social conscience, and inner strength.

Mountain Light

Laurence Yep. Harper & Row (HarperCollins). ISBN 0-06-026759-3. YAC '87.

This book, the sequel to *The Serpent's Children*, is set in the 19th century. With the Chinese rebellions against the domination of the Manchus as a backdrop, it chronicles 19-year-old Squeaky Lau's travels to America, where he goes to seek his fortune in the California gold fields. A reader concludes that the story "is relevant to the teenagers of this day and age and their feelings or perspective around older people."

Napoleon

Manfred Weidhorn. Atheneum. ISBN 0-689-31163-X. YAC '88.

Napoleon's life had so many strange turns it sounds like fic-

tion. This biography describes his childhood, battlefield heroics, government problems, the exiles on Elba and St. Helena, Waterloo, and his last lonely years. Illustrations are reproductions of art from the period.

On Home Ground

Alan Lelchuk. HBJ/Gulliver. ISBN 0-15-200560-9. YAC '89.

Post-World War II America is captured through the eyes of nine-year-old Aaron Schlossberg. His two passions are the Brooklyn Dodgers and his friendship with Burt, a pilot who was shot while escaping from a Nazi POW camp. Aaron's father, a communist Jewish immigrant from Russia, has little use for either. Father and son find compromise difficult, but Aaron discovers that "there's always room for one more hero."

Only Brave Tomorrows

Winifred Bruce Luhrmann. Houghton Mifflin. ISBN 0-395-47983-5. YAC '91.

The only survivor of an Indian raid, Faith is sent to Springfield, Massachusetts, where a marriage is arranged for her. Life in New England during King Philip's War (1675-76) was harsh, particularly for women who had little power or freedom. Faith's story should interest even reluctant readers in a period that is covered sketchily in textbooks.

The Orphan Train Quartet #1: A Family Apart

Joan Lowery Nixon. Bantam Starfire. ISBN 0-553-05432-5. YAC '89.

In the U.S. of the late 19th century, orphans and other poor children were shipped west to families who adopted them. In this first of four novels about the Kelly children, Frances Mary Kelly and her five brothers and sisters are sent on the orphan train by their mother, who knows she cannot provide for them. Posing as a boy named Frankie so that she will be adopted with her youngest brother, Frances gets involved with a new family and the Underground Railroad for escaped slaves.

The Other Victims: First-Person Stories of Non-Jews Persecuted by the Nazis

Ina R. Friedman. Houghton Mifflin. ISBN 0-395-50212-8. YAC '92.

In addition to the six million Jews murdered by the Nazis, there were five million other victims, including those considered "defective" physically, politically, or racially and other non-Jews who held religious beliefs different from the Nazis. Friedman relates first-person stories told by representatives of these persecuted groups. Their stories are dramatic reminders of the responsibilities each person has to respect the rights and beliefs of others.

Pocket Change

Kathryn Jensen. Macmillan. ISBN 0-02-747731-2. YAC '91.

This novel might be read in conjunction with other war-related stories by teens who want to understand more about the Vietnam War. Josie's life falls apart when her father's increasingly erratic and violent behavior threatens their family. Determined to help him, she pieces together clues from his past and becomes convinced that his experiences in the Vietnam War are continuing to haunt him. A chilling climax leads to a satisfying ending.

A Promise to Keep

Eileen Van Kirk. Lodestar. ISBN 0-525-67319-9. YAC '92.

Fourteen-year-old Ellie Westlake is sent to a farm in the English countryside to escape wartime London, where she wonders how she can get Curt, a handsome Austrian refugee, to notice her instead of her beautiful older sister. When a German plane is shot down over the farm, Ellie is faced with a crisis that tests her loyalty to her country and to the boy she loves, who is sympathetic to the German enemy. This book will help readers compare different points of view about growing up in Europe during the World War II period.

Rescue: The Story of How Gentiles Saved Jews in the Holocaust

Milton Meltzer. Harper & Row (HarperCollins). ISBN 0-06-024209-4. YAC '90.

Drawing on a variety of sources including diaries, personal narratives, and historical studies, Meltzer recounts the stories of "righteous Gentiles" who risked their lives to aid Jews in Nazi-dominated Europe. Each chapter discusses anti-Semitism, implementation of the "Final Solution," and rescue efforts in a particular country. A powerful follow-up to Meltzer's *Never to Forget*.

Sarah and Me and the Lady from the Sea

Patricia Beatty. Morrow. ISBN 0-688-08045-6. YAC '91.

Twelve-year-old Marcella's family adjusts to a new life after her father loses his business in Washington state's flood of 1894. Marcella must get used to being poor and learn to make friends with people very different from herself. She befriends Sarah (who first appeared in Beatty's *The Nickel-Plated Beauty*), and together the girls solve the mystery of a ship-wrecked woman.

Shades of Gray

Carolyn Reeder. Macmillan. ISBN 0-02-775810-9. YAC '91.

After the U.S. Civil War claims his entire family, 12-year-old Will Page goes to live with his aunt and uncle in Virginia. Because his uncle had refused to fight the Yankees, Will finds it difficult to respect him. Eventually Uncle Jed befriends a traveling Yankee who stirs up all of Will's deep anger. This novel deals with one boy's realization that good people may hold opposite views and that all people suffer from war.

The Shining Company

Rosemary Sutcliff. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. ISBN 0-374-36807-4. YAC '92.

Friendship, loyalty, heroism, betrayal, and sacrifice are powerful themes in this well-researched historical novel set

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around 600 A.D. and based on "The Goloddin," the earliest surviving North British poem. Prosper, a fictional shield-bearer, and the Companions, 300 warriors from northern Britain, trek south—deep into enemy Saxon territory. This authentic-feeling novel gives readers a unique opportunity to realize the futility of war and at the same time understand more about the roots of the British nation.

Sing for a Gentle Rain

J. Alison James. Atheneum. ISBN 0-689-31561-9. YAC '92.

In this time-slip fantasy, the ancient songs of Spring Rain, a 13th-century Anasazi Native American girl from the southwest, summon James Winter to her drought-stricken village from the present day. The author skillfully weaves into the story the little that is known about the Anasazi civilization. This novel will help teens understand that different cultures value different skills.

Smoke and Ashes: The Story of the Holocaust

Barbara Rogasky. Illustrated with photographs. Holiday House. ISBN 0-8234-0697-0. YAC '90.

This is a vivid historial account of the Holocaust from 1933 to 1945. The book explains the history of anti-Semitism, how and why the Nazis rose to power under the leadership of Adolf Hitler, what life was like in the ghettos and concentration camps, successes and failures of the armed resistance, and the people and governments that had the daring to act as rescuers and helpers.

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Sweetgrass

Jan Hudson. Philomel. ISBN 0-399-21721-5. YAC '91.

Well-researched history is woven into this compelling coming-of-age story. Sweetgrass, a 15-year-old Blackfoot Indian living in northern Montana, is the oldest unmarried girl in her tribe. She longs to be betrothed to Eagle-Sun, a brave young warrior, but her stern, loving father believes she is not mature enough to marry. During a long winter of enemy attack, disease, death, and near starvation, Sweetgrass cares for her mother and brothers and proves to her father that she is, indeed, a strong and mature woman.

Mystery and Crime

A Boy I Never Knew

Patricia Sierra. Avon Flare. ISBN 0-380-75208-5 (paperback). YAC '90.

Libby, the teenaged protagonist, discovers that she has the clues to the murder of a boy she dated only once. This suspense novel holds students' interest and asks important questions about individual responsibility.

Crash Course

Nicole Davidson. Avon. ISBN 0-380-75964-0 (paperback). YAC '92.

The weekend began as a crash SAT prep course given by a strict teacher in a secluded cabin at a lake—four boys and four girls cramming for college entrance exams. And then there were seven.... For one of them, it was over forever; for the rest, the terror had just begun. The teacher goes for help while seven terrified teens wait. A gripping book of mystery and terror.

Finder: The True Story of a Private Investigator

Marilyn Greene and Gary Provost. Crown. ISBN 0-517-56490-4. YAC '90.

This true story highlights the dreams and career of a determined private investigator who has devoted her life to finding lost or missing people. There are interesting anecdotes pertaining to cases she has worked on, with both happy and sad endings. This book raises questions about commitment

to family, friends, and career and shows how one person tried to juggle these factors in her life.

Incident at Loring Groves

Sonia Levitin. Dial. ISBN 0-8037-0455-0. YAC '90.

A well-written mystery about a group of high school students who discover the body of a missing classmate. Their fragile world, built on money and social-class restrictions, begins to fall apart as they come to suspect another classmate of murder. This book, best suited to mature readers, deals with morals, values, and the possible results of giving in to peer pressure. The main characters waffle quite a bit but finally make the right decision.

One Sister Too Many

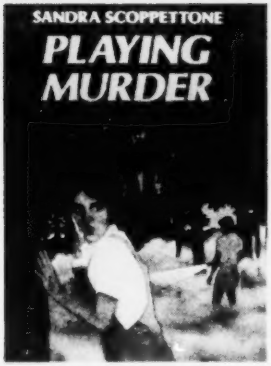
C.S. Adler. Macmillan. ISBN 0-02-700271-3. YAC '91.

Case and Jen (from the novel *Split Sisters*) return in a humorous yet suspenseful story for younger teens. The girls' family life is in turmoil: new stepfather, new home, new school, and, most stressful of all, a new baby sister whose constant crying has the entire family on edge. Along comes a new babysitter whose strange influence calms the baby but arouses Case's suspicions. Her parents downplay her concerns...until both sitter and baby disappear.

Playing Murder

Sandra Scoppettone. Harper & Row (HarperCollins). ISBN 0-06-025284-7. YAC '87.

A group of young people play a game called Murder, and one of them, Kirk, is killed. Through twists and turns of plot, 17-year-old Anna Parker and her twin brother, Bill, work to find the killer. Detective Harvard Smolley has his own ideas, and readers are kept guessing from start to finish. One reader comments that reading this book "is like sitting at the end of your seat the whole time."



Jacket art © 1985 by Ellen Thompson for Sandra Scoppettone's Playing Murder. *Reproduced by permission of HarperCollins Publishers.*

The Rainbow Factor

Raboo Rodgers. Houghton Mifflin. ISBN 0-395-39643-1. YAC '87.

Cody flies his homemade plane into a Louisiana town to check out a college and meets Audry, who is being chased by a strange man. Following a note left by Audry's professor that points to a location on a deserted island, Cody and Audry discover a treasure with skeletons guarding it. The strange man reappears and they confront each other. Eventually they work together to destroy the evil treasure and unravel a past mystery. One reader comments that "the book is easily understood and the excitement lingers throughout."

Show Me the Evidence

Alane Ferguson. Bradbury. ISBN 0-02-734521-1. YAC '91.

Lauren and Janaan are best friends. While Janaan is babysitting, her brother is found dead as a result of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. Two other babies eventually die while under Janaan's care. Lauren is questioned by detectives about her best friend. Struggling against each other and everyone else, Lauren and Janaan try to solve the mystery of the three deaths and clear Janaan's name.

A Sinless Season

Damon Galgut. Penguin. ISBN 0-14-007077-X (paperback). YAC '87.

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Three runaways and vandals are sent to Bleda Reformatory, an institution renowned for turning juvenile delinquents into young gentlemen. The day they arrive, Joseph is mysteriously murdered and Raoul is raped. One student describes the story this way: "The book gives a realistic look at what it's like to be in a juvenile home. It has good descriptions of characters and setting. It made me feel like I was really there getting into trouble and getting myself out. This book made me feel and know what it is like to pay for a major crime."

Sirens and Spies

Janet Taylor Lisle. Bradbury. ISBN 0-02-759150-6. YAC '87.

Two unlike sisters, Elsie and Mary Potter, are involved in the mystery surrounding their violin teacher, Miss Renee Fitch. Although the story takes place in contemporary Connecticut, part of it focuses on France during World War II. "I liked the way the author gave the reader information in the first three chapters and then tied it all together in the chapters following," says one young reader, "and the descriptions are really vivid."

Weasel

Cynthia DeFelice. Macmillan. ISBN 0-02-726457-2. YAC '92.

Great storytelling and memorable characters make this a must for middle school readers. Weasel is the nickname of a vicious killer living on the U.S. wilderness frontier in 1839. Eleven-year-old Nathan runs afoul of Weasel but with the help of Ezra, a strange backwoods hermit, Nathan confronts the fearsome Weasel and uncovers the mystery of his sorrow, happiness, and desire for revenge. This book evokes the loneliness and savagery of the American frontier.

Nature

Operation Grizzly Bear

Marian Calabro. Four Winds. ISBN 0-02-716241-9. YAC '91.

Frank and John Craighead, twin brothers and scientists, observed silvertip grizzly bear behavior in and around Yellowstone Park between 1959 and 1971. This interesting chronicle describes how they used ear tags and electronic tracking collars to follow the bears' migration patterns. Diet, mating and cub rearing, hibernation, and life cycles are included in this study of human/animal encounters. Readers will be inspired to learn more about the grizzly bear and ways to preserve it.

Rescue of the Stranded Whales

Kenneth Mallory and Andrea Conley. Illustrated with photographs. Simon & Schuster. ISBN 0-671-67122-7. YAC '91.

In 1986 the New England Aquarium rescued and then cared for and released three pilot whales found stranded on a Cape Cod beach. The book illustrates the roles of patience and persistence and the collaborative efforts among the scientific community and the public to help the whales and acquire useful information about them.

The Sea World Book of Whales

Eve Bunting. Illustrated with photographs. HBJ. ISBN 0-15-200421-1. YAC '89.

This is a readable and comprehensive survey of information about whales including their evolution, classification,

Photograph by John Craighead. From Operation Grizzly Bear *by Marian Calabro. Photograph copyright © 1989 by Macmillan Publishing Company. Reproduced with the permission of Four Winds Press, an imprint of Macmillan Publishing Company.*

habits, the whaling industry, and training of whales. The book offers facts and photos. These mammals are studied by those who train them for performances at Sea World.

Spaceshots: The Beauty of Nature beyond Earth

Timothy Ferris. Illustrated with photographs. Pantheon. ISBN 0-394-53890-0. YAC '87.

The simply written introduction discusses the beauty in nature through art, history, and science. Then follow 80 strikingly beautiful color and black-and-white photographs of images of extraterrestrial subjects, including auroras in the Arctic, shooting stars and eclipses, the corona of the sun, cyclones on Jupiter, and dunelike formations on Mars. The third part provides a succinct description of the scientific content of the photographs. One reader says, "The pictures are superb and graphically show the universe around us. The author's comprehension of the history of the universe up to the present gives the reader a good grasp of what he or she is reading."

Whale Nation

Heathcote Williams. Illustrated with photographs. Harmony. ISBN 0-517-56932-9. YAC '90.

In pictures, poetry, and prose, *Whale Nation* tells the story of whales, dolphins, the ocean, the earth, and the universe. In the first part, beautiful pictures illustrate Williams's

powerful and poetic celebration of the beauty, size, and grace of the world's largest mammals. The second part is a collection of prose and pictures showing how whales have inspired writers, philosophers, and scientists throughout the ages.

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Personal Growth

Anastasia Has the Answers

Lois Lowry. Houghton Mifflin. ISBN 0-395-41795-3. YAC '88.

Irrepressible Anastasia, familiar from four earlier books, returns here to the humiliation of being the least coordinated kid in gym class. Now 13, she tries to satisfy the requirements of gym, while playing matchmaker for the single adults in her life. Younger teens will relate to the struggles involved in the emotional upheaval of divorce and the crushing blow to Anastasia's ego when her potential "blaze of glory" falls to the ground.

The Band Never Dances

J.D. Landis. HarperCollins. ISBN 0-06-023722-8. YAC '91.

Judy Valentine, a gifted drummer, withdraws from her family after the suicide of her older brother. After graduating early from high school, Judy puts together a rock-and-roll band that reaches success with Judy as its reluctant star. Judy's gradual understanding of and eventual reconciliation with her parents accompany her musical success. This book provides an excellent character study of Judy's strengths and weaknesses, as well as powerful descriptions of her relationships with the band members, other musicians, promoters, and her search for identity and a sense of family.

December Stillness

Mary Downing Hahn. Clarion. ISBN 0-89919-758-2. YAC '90.

Thirteen-year-old Kelly McAlister gains an enriched view

Jacket painting © 1985 by Diane deGroat for Lois Lowry's Anastasia Has the Answers. *Reproduced by permission of Houghton Mifflin Company.*

of life beyond the routine of school when she attempts to befriend Mr. Weems, a disturbed, homeless Vietnam War veteran. In the process of helping him, Kelly grows emotionally and acquires social awareness and responsibility.

Eaglebait

Susan Coryell. HBJ/Gulliver. ISBN 0-15-200-442-4. YAC '91.

This book chronicles the changes a young man goes through both physically and emotionally as he struggles to become more self-assured through science projects and a friendship with a girl. Many junior high students will relate to his problems.

Face at the Edge of the World

Eve Bunting. Clarion. ISBN 0-89919-399-4. YAC '87.

No one understood why a guy who had everything in his favor would kill himself. The only explanation is hidden in a note Charlie left his best friend Jed. Jed discovers the tragic incident that drove Charlie to his suicide. During the process, Jed learns something about himself and his relationship with his girlfriend, Annie. One young critic describes the book as dealing "with things that are happening now all around. It shows a sensitive understanding for the problems we have as teenagers."

Getting On with It

Jan Slepian. Four Winds. ISBN 0-02-782930-8. YAC '87.

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At first Berry is not happy about spending the summer at her grandmother's cottage on Lake Erie while her parents talk about divorce, but gradually she becomes involved in the lives of the interesting people around her. Berry gains self-confidence after helping to save the life of a young boy and learns how people can relate to one another. One teen comments, "It was neat to see how the girl made her month spent with her grandmother become more exciting."

Good-bye to Good Ol' Charlie

P.J. Petersen. Delacorte. ISBN 0-385-29483-2. YAC '89.

Charlie gets the excitement in his life he has been looking for, but it does not accomplish what he intends. Will Nick, the town bully, be convinced that Charlie is an outpatient from the mental hospital and quit harassing him? Will Charlie be successful as Chad, Chuck, Chet, or Chip, or will he eventually realize that it is best to be himself?

The Good Side of My Heart

Ann Rinaldi. Holiday House. ISBN 0-8234-0648-2. YAC '89.

Despite warnings, Brie finds herself attracted to her best friend's brother, Josh. Through her relationship with him, Brie gets involved in hiding drugs for another student, lying to her father and brother, and sneaking out of the house. Finally, she is shocked to discover that Josh is homosexual. This is Rinaldi's second novel showing Brie coming to grips with difficulties in her life and learning about forgiveness.

High Cheekbones

Erika Tamar. Viking. ISBN 0-670-82843-2. YAC '92.

Fourteen-year-old Alice can't believe her luck when she is "discovered" and becomes an exotic, highly paid fashion model. She soon finds her new life isn't problem free as she struggles to balance the seduction of being photographed and the pressures of modeling with family responsibilities. Tamar's well-written, behind-the-scenes glimpse at the less glamorous aspects of the modeling industry is a real page-turner with a satisfying ending.

I Wear the Morning Star

Jamake Highwater. Harper & Row (HarperCollins). ISBN 0-06-022356-1. YAC '88.

This book describes the cruelty and prejudice faced by Sitko Ghost Horse, a Native American forced to assimilate into the white culture of 20th-century America. Boarding school, foster families, and an Anglo stepfather show Sitko that he is indeed far from the comforting arms and beliefs of his Grandma Amana, the last woman warrior of the Northern Plains Indians. This is the third book in the Ghost Horse trilogy.

Jason's Women

Jean Davies Okimoto. Joy Street/Little, Brown. ISBN 0-87113-061-0. YAC '88.

Jason, a teenaged boy and self-professed wimp, has difficulty approaching girls. When he places personal ads in the newspaper, he winds up going on two disastrous dates and landing a job as campaign manager for 81-year-old Bertha Jane Fillmore, candidate for mayor of Seattle. According to one reader, this funny story is one that "a lot of guys can relate to."

Looking for Home

Jean Ferris. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. ISBN 0-374-34649-6. YAC '91.

When Daphne realizes she is pregnant, she runs away from home and plans to put the baby up for adoption. Her dilemma is presented realistically. Young adult readers will find this sensitive novel easy to read yet challenging in its themes of self-discovery and making choices.

Lydia

Marilyn Kaye. HBJ/Gulliver. ISBN 0-15-200510-2. YAC '89.

Lydia is a rebel who decides to organize an alternative newspaper for Cedar Park Junior High. The book highlights some differences between serious issues and frivolous ideas and explores women's rights, community action, debate,

and teenage friendships. This novel sparks discussion among boys and girls alike.

The Me inside of Me

T. Ernesto Bethancourt. Lerner. ISBN 0-8225-0728-5. YAC '87.

Freddie's life changes when his family dies in a plane crash and he inherits a million dollars. He decides to prove that Mexican-Americans can make it in the system, so he enrolls in a prep school to prepare for Stanford University. When he is framed for having drugs in his room, Freddie escapes to the mountains where he thinks about his life. With the support of friends and the recognition that he really wants to study art, Freddie begins a new phase of his life with the knowledge that being who he is doesn't depend on money.

Middle School Blues

Lou Kassem. Houghton Mifflin. ISBN 0-395-39499-6. YAC '88.

Growing up means going to middle school, and when Cynthia Jane Cunningham discovers that the library doesn't have a book on the subject, she decides to write her own and formulates ten rules for survival. Kassem captures all the anxieties, confusion, and joys of entering seventh grade. Readers of that age say they can "identify with some of the characters and problems."

Midnight Hour Encores

Bruce Brooks. Harper & Row (HarperCollins). ISBN 0-06-020710-8. YAC '88.

Sibilance T. Spooner, a 16-year-old musical prodigy, suddenly decides she wants to see the mother she's never met. Her father takes Sib across the country to meet her mother and on the way tries to explain to her the spirit that captured her parents in the late 1960s. Traveling in an old VW bus, he talks, sings, and together they visit some of his old friends. Eventually Sib must decide whether to stay with her father or join her now wealthy mother. The story "shows how people can forgive each other," says one reader.

No More Saturday Nights

Norma Klein. Knopf. ISBN 0-394-91944-4. YAC '90.

An unwed teenage boy wins custody of his infant son and must adjust to being a parent. He enters into his first year of college with baby in tow and shares lodgings with three female students. Themes of transition, self-discovery, and growth are strong, and an upbeat ending speaks to the importance of relationships with significant others.

On the Far Side of the Mountain

Jean Craighead George. Dutton. ISBN 0-525-44563-3. YAC '92.

Young Sam Gribley, who left the city and 20th-century living behind him in the classic *My Side of the Mountain*, again shows us the joys, challenges, and achievements of the simple life. His union with nature is threatened by poachers who are after his peregrine falcon. Tracking his sister, Alice, and her prize pig, he travels across the mountain, taking us through rocky terrain and gorges of immense beauty. The first book can be read before or after this one.

The Other Side of Dark

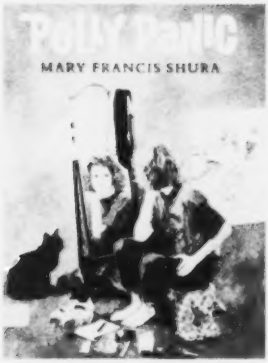
Joan Lowery Nixon. Delacorte. ISBN 0-385-29481-6. YAC '88.

Seventeen-year-old Stacy wakes up in the hospital and discovers that she has been in a coma for four years. She struggles to adjust to her status as a celebrity, her own physical transformation, and the knowledge that her mother was killed by the same stranger who shot her. Stacy remembers that she saw the killer, but can't really recall his identity.

People Like Us

Barbara Cohen. Bantam. ISBN 0-553-05441-4. YAC '89.

Dinah cannot believe that Geoff, the most popular boy at school, has selected her to be his girlfriend. She is even more shocked when her usually open-minded and supportive mother and grandparents disapprove of her dating Geoff because he is not Jewish. Dinah struggles with family loyalty and establishing her personal identity.



Jacket art by Keith Richens reprinted by permission of G.P. Putnam's Sons from Polly Panic *by Mary Francis Shura. Jacket art copyright © 1990 by Keith Richens.*

Phoenix Rising, or How to Survive Your Life

Cynthia D. Grant. Atheneum. ISBN 0-689-31458-2. YAC '91.

This powerfully evocative story follows a teenaged girl's journey through the grief of losing her beloved older sister to cancer. Readers share Jessie's pain and eventual hope of healing as she relives her sister's zest for life through her last diary. Highly recommended for junior high and beginning high schoolers.

Polly Panic

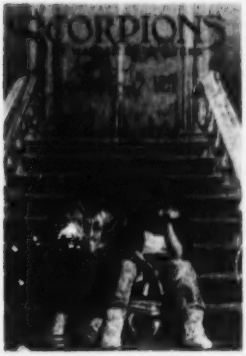
Mary Francis Shura. Putnam. ISBN 0-399-22214-6. YAC '92.

Everybody else seems so self-assured, but Polly panics at the many changes she faces at the start of sixth grade. She contends with upheavals with family and friends and encounters with bullies, and learns to overcome her fearfulness and take more control of her life. Younger teens will find humor and reality in Polly's struggles.

Scorpions

Walter Dean Myers. Harper & Row (HarperCollins). ISBN 0-06-024364-3. YAC '90.

Power and fear are the twin themes in this novel of surviving in Harlem. Jamal Hicks, a seventh grader, finds that having a gun makes a big difference in how he's perceived in school, on the street, and by members of the gang called the Scorpions. What he does with it will tell him much



Jacket art © 1988 by Bradford Brown for Walter Dean Myers's Scorpions. *Reproduced by permission of HarperCollins Publishers.*

about himself and the challenges of daily life in the poverty- and violence-stricken inner city.

A Season for Unicorns

Sonia Levitin. Atheneum. ISBN 0-689-31113-3. YAC '88.

Conquering fears is the underlying theme of this novel. Inky fears heights and going up in a hot-air balloon; even more terrifying, however, is her fear that her parents will divorce. She runs away and meets a family with more love and honesty than her own. This book also deals with separating reality from fantasy.

Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind

Suzanne Fisher Staples. Knopf. ISBN 0-394-84815-2. YAC '91.

This beautifully written novel portrays the nomadic culture of Pakistan's Cholistan Desert. Shabanu, unlike her sister, is happier tending the camels than dreaming about life after marriage. Shabanu knows she will marry as planned by her father, but the arrangements cause her to ask questions about obedience, independence, tradition, loyalty, and personal happiness.

Shanny on Her Own

Lael Littke. HBJ. ISBN 0-15-273531-3. YAC '87.

Shanny's purple hair and flamboyant clothes set her apart from the people in the small Idaho town where her parents

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send her from Los Angeles for the summer. She discovers friendship and romance, works on the local music show, helps her aunt talk about her feelings about growing old, and develops both compassion and independence. Readers relate to the book personally: "Each person gave me a little picture of myself.... This story paints a vivid picture of what's going on."

A Sudden Silence

Eve Bunting. HBJ. ISBN 0-15-282058-2. YAC '90.

Jesse feels grief and guilt over the hit-and-run accident that killed his brother. By gathering clues, he locates the drunk driver responsible, but his findings offer more sadness than satisfaction. Readers from seventh grade through high school—especially young people dealing with the loss of a friend or sibling and those concerned with drunk driving—will find this story absorbing.

Uneasy Money

Robin F. Brancato. Knopf. ISBN 0-394-96954-4. YAC '88.

Who wouldn't like to win $2.5 million? This book describes the euphoria shared by 18-year-old Mike and his family when he wins a lottery, and also the troubles that wealth can cause. Young adults learn with Mike that happiness, loyalty, and motivation for success cannot be bought. "It seems a lot like real life," comments one reader.

Wheels for Walking

Sandra Richmond. Joy Street/Little, Brown. ISBN 0-87113-041-6. YAC '87.

When Sally Parker is paralyzed from the chest down following a car accident, she has to come to terms with her new life. She moves from the confinement of a hospital bed to a rehabilitation center where she slowly develops her physical skills. Sally also learns to adjust emotionally as she releases her anger over the accident and accepts the help of the family and friends who love her. One reader comments that he liked the book because "it explains emotional and

physical hardships and makes you feel like you were there with the girl going through what she goes through."

The Whitney Cousins: Erin

Jean Thesman. Avon. ISBN 0-380-75875-X (paperback). YAC '92.

Erin, orphaned at 10, is now 15 and running out of relatives with whom to live. She purposefully dresses and behaves oddly to fit the way she feels. This book will touch the lives of the many teenagers who feel at odds with the world and help them look beyond the surface to discover what other people are really like.

Wildlife

Todd Strasser. Delacorte. ISBN 0-385-29560-X. YAC '89.

A rock band hits it big and faces many temptations in the "fast lane." The band members—Gary, Susan, Oscar, and Karl—have different reactions to the limelight. An easy read and a good choice for reluctant readers, this book is the sequel to *Rock 'n' Roll Nights* and *Turn It Up*.

Romance

Abby, My Love

Hadley Irwin. McElderry. ISBN 0-689-50323-7. YAC '87.

Chip has loved Abby since he was 13, but real dates are not possible because of her strict father. Abby is fun and imaginative, but sometimes she retreats into her own world. Chip is puzzled by Abby's behavior until Abby tells him she is being sexually abused by her father. Chip and his mother assist Abby in finding people who can help her. One teen comments, "*Abby, My Love* is a very moving love story. The theme, sexual abuse, is straighforward yet delicately handled."

Daniel and Esther

Patrick Raymond. McElderry. ISBN 0-689-50504-3. YAC '92.

While attending an English boarding school in 1936, 13-year-old Daniel—a problem child of rich parents—meets Esther—a beautiful Viennese refugee. Looking back from 1939, he tells the story of the man who inspired him most and the loss of Esther, who became the focus of his life.

Finding David Dolores

Margaret Willey. Harper & Row (HarperCollins). ISBN 0-06-026483-7. YAC '88.

Thirteen-year-old Arly, solitary and aloof, is drawn to an older boy, David Dolores, whom she follows and admires from afar. She becomes friends with Regina, who joins her in spying on David. Regina's fascination with David's

mother and her dislike of her own mother strain the friendship. "I wanted to jump into the book to tell Regina what I thought of her," says one reader.

Hey Kid! Does She Love Me?

Harry Mazer. Crowell. ISBN 0-690-04275-2. YAC '87.

Jeff Orloff is spending the summer after his high school graduation working in Sadie's Diner, trying to save enough money to get to California to become a movie director. Then he falls in love with Mary Silver and her baby, Hannah, and things change. "It is a good book with great characters," remarks a young reader. "It tells you how life really is." This book, about coming of age, is also about aspirations and love.

Night Kites

M.E. Kerr. Harper & Row (HarperCollins). ISBN 0-06-023254-4. YAC '88.

Although Erick Rudd's older brother always seemed perfect to him, part of Pete's life was mysterious. Erick falls in love with a girl who is a real maverick, and their relationship falls apart when the truth about Pete is revealed. The story about a family coping with AIDS makes this book highly relevant in today's world.

Pictures of Adam

Myron Levoy. Harper & Row (HarperCollins). ISBN 0-06-023828-3. YAC '88.

Lisa tells the story of her friendship with Adam, who comes from a mountain cabin and believes he is an alien from another planet. In trying to understand him, she comes to know his family and his problems. The book is touching and real in its depiction of adolescent agonies. One reader comments, "It was truthful—it wasn't a fake never-never-land story."

Putting On an Act

Christi Killien. Houghton Mifflin. ISBN 0-395-41027-4. YAC '88.

Skeeter, a 10th grader, fantasizes about a relationship with a high school sports star and pours out the details in letters to her pen pal, Terry. Suddenly, she learns that Terry is moving to her town and she must keep her from discovering that the affair is only fantasy. The novel mirrors the plot of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by Skeeter's adored Shakespeare: there's mistaken identity and romance for all.

Risking It

Jeanette Mines. Avon. ISBN 0-380-75401-0 (paperback). YAC '90.

Jeannie Tanger wants to forget her first love (who died tragically in Mines's earlier book, *Reckless*). Now a senior in high school, Jeannie is attracted to the mysterious Trent Justin, who is also liked by Jeannie's best friend, Renee. Will rumors of Trent's shadowed past and Renee's opposition keep the two apart? This is an easy book and will appeal particularly to high school girls who are reluctant readers.

The Romantic Obsessions and Humiliations of Annie Sehlmeier

Louise Plummer. Delacorte. ISBN 0-385-29574-X. YAC '89.

After moving from the Netherlands to Utah, Annie must adjust to a new country and high school. Life becomes more complicated when she learns that she is as susceptible to physical attraction as is her boy-crazy sister. Annie must also come to terms with the embarrassment and pain she feels because of living with her senile grandmother.

Someone to Love Me

Jeannette Eyerly. Lippincott. ISBN 0-397-32205-4. YAC '89.

Patrice's need for love makes her naive about the role of sex in adolescent relationships, and she reaps the consequences when she becomes pregnant. Her boyfriend's betrayal and the sudden changes in her life seem to darken her chances for real happiness.

Jacket art © 1989 by Pino Daeni for Leslie D. Guccione's Tell Me How the Wind Sounds. *Reproduced by permission of Scholastic, Inc.*

Tell Me How the Wind Sounds

Leslie D. Guccione. Scholastic. ISBN 0-590-42615-X. YAC '91.

Amanda, a stubborn, pampered, 15-year-old girl from the city, feels cut off from everything important to her when her family spends the summer on Clark's Island in New England. Things change when she meets Jake, who is deaf. Amanda is determined that they will overcome difficulties in communicating. Besides experiencing the romance of the story, readers will learn about the difficulties and rewards of interpersonal relations with someone who is deaf or physically handicapped.

The Things I Did for Love

Ellen Conford. Bantam. ISBN 0-553-05431-7. YAC '89.

Stephanie, age 16, chooses a fascinating topic for her psychology project—love. The reader is led through humorous experiences as Stephanie does first-hand research on the often illogical attractions and feelings of love.

Tom Loves Anna Loves Tom

Bruce Clements. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. ISBN 0-374-37673-5. YAC '92.

Tom tells how he met and fell in love with Anna. They had only two weeks together, but in that time they shared love, fear, regret, longing, and a death. High school readers who like romance will enjoy this book.

Was It Something I Said?

Jean Thesman. Avon. ISBN 0-380-75462-2 (paperback). YAC '90.

Bonnie, a high school junior, discovers that the most important things are friendship and honesty. This first-person romance has many themes that involve growing up. Bonnie's family is portrayed as unusual but supportive, and even the book's pets are endearing. The humor and tears appeal especially to junior high students.

Science Fiction

Born into Light

Paul Samuel Jacobs. Scholastic. ISBN 0-590-40710-1. YAC '90.

This book introduces the reader to what appear at first to be feral children, but are actually unusual beings, perhaps aliens. As the reader gets to know these individuals and the families that nurture them, questions about humanlike life in other times and places are explored.

Contact

Carl Sagan. Pocket Books. ISBN 0-671-43422-5 (paperback). YAC '88.

This is an adventure story about the search for and discovery of an advanced civilization in outer space. Readers find it suspenseful: "It gets more interesting as it goes on."

Experiment in Terror

Bernal C. Payne, Jr. Houghton Mifflin. ISBN 0-395-44260-5. YAC '89.

Steve and his six best friends were born the same day, have grown up together, and are inseparable companions. Suddenly one of the group disappears, then two more, and then another three. Steve begins to notice changes in himself: he dreams of snakes with golden eyes, discovers he has unusual powers of strength, and can read the thoughts of others. Watch for the surprise ending to this science-fiction thriller.

Hong on the Range

William F. Wu. Walker. ISBN 0-8027-6862-8. YAC '91.

Meet some zany characters in this science-fiction spoof of the American wild west. Louie Hong is an out-of-work cowboy, a disdained "control natural" with no mechanical body parts. Companions and pursuing villains include Chuck, a partly mechanical steer; Rusty, a robotic cow; Prism Chisholm; Smellin' Llewellyn; and Betsy from Pike. Teens will enjoy contrasting this parody with favorite TV and movie Westerns.

The Seer

G. Clifton Wisler. Lodestar/Dutton. ISBN 0-525-67262-1. YAC '90.

Fourteen-year-old Scott is a seer—he has the gifts of moving through time, reading the future, telekinesis, and converting matter. With these gifts he intrudes on history and alters events. His achievements endanger his life and force him into an existence as a lonely wanderer. Teen readers identify with Scott and respond to his victories and problems in this sequel to *The Antrian Messenger.*

A Sending of Dragons

Jane Yolen. Delacorte. ISBN 0-385-29587-1. YAC '89.

This third book in the "Pit Dragon" trilogy is beautifully written, colorful, and exciting. Two friends must protect five dragon hatchlings in the wilderness of Planet Austar IV. While fleeing from revolutionary forces, they are led into a realm of primitive people where danger and great challenges await.

This Place Has No Atmosphere

Paula Danziger. Delacorte. ISBN 0-385-20489-1. YAC '88.

This humorous novel deals with the hurts and adjustments of moving to a new environment, but in this case, the year is 2057 and 15-year-old Aurora is moving to the moon! One reader says the story is "hilarious—if life is going to be like that then I'll be there!"

Sports

Baseball: It's Your Team

Nate Aaseng. Illustrated with photographs. Lerner. ISBN 0-8225-1558-X. YAC '87.

To shape ten teams into World Series champions, the reader is asked to decide, based on information supplied, whether to trade players, let them go, or send them back to minor leagues, and what to do about a star player who demands a sky-high salary just to continue playing for the team. The reader can then compare each decision with the one that was made by the real team's owner. One reader's comment: "It lets you see what it is really like to make the decisions that face the baseball owners. It shows the pressures and high risks of making the big moves involving star players."

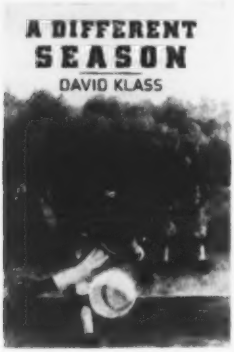
Darkling

K.M. Peyton. Delacorte. ISBN 0-385-30086-7. YAC '92.

Set in the English countryside, this novel chronicles the adolescent experiences of Jenny, a lover of horses. She lives with a disabled father, a despondent mother, and an eccentric grandfather, but despite these demands she takes on the challenge of raising Darkling, a colt with potential. As she makes friends with a jockey, she discovers a mystery surrounding her family and finds her own true potential.

A Different Season

David Klass. Lodestar/Dutton. ISBN 0-525-67237-6. YAC '90



From A Different Season *by David Klass, jacket illustration by Peter Catalanotto. Copyright © 1988 by David Klass. Used by permission of Lodestar Books, an affiliate of Dutton Children's Books, a division of Penguin USA Inc.*

Star baseball pitcher Jim "Streak" Roark's life was a perfect game until Jennifer Douglas stepped up to the plate, going to bat for women's equality on the Oakdale High baseball team. Jennifer gets to second base despite a strong performance by the "man's sport" contingent; Streak revises his game plan and progresses from error to squeeze play in his relationship with Jennifer.

Rookie of the Year

John R. Tunis. HBJ/Gulliver. ISBN 0-15-200570-6 (paperback). YAC '89.

Originally published in 1944, this is Tunis's most popular book. A rookie pitcher for the Brooklyn Dodgers helps the team win the pennant. This standard sports book is only slightly dated. Reluctant male readers, or those wanting an easy read, will enjoy it.

Running before the Wind

Linda Woolverton. Houghton Mifflin. ISBN 0-395-42116-0. YAC '89.

Unlike her mother and sister, Kelly does not remain passive in the hope of sidestepping her father's unpredictable physical violence. Love of running and a supportive junior high track coach help her deal with mixed feelings about her father and her own frightening rage.

Ruth Marini: World Series Star

Mel Cebulash. Lerner. ISBN 0-8225-0727-7. YAC '87.

This book, the third in a series, continues Ruth's baseball career as the only female on the Los Angeles Dodgers. She is recuperating from a serious midseason injury, and has to cope with leaving her boyfriend and the complications of mixing career and personal life. The author shows what it is like in pro ball and what it might be like to be the first female to make it. One reader says, "I like the book because it shows the struggle that women have in a job that is usually occupied by a man. Ruth has many pressures and it seems like an uphill battle against herself and society, but she learns how to cope with problems and helps to win the World Series."

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Teachers, librarians, and parents of teenagers have had to come up with answers to questions like these for decades. Telling busy teens that reading is important for success in school and work doesn't usually make much of an impression, and suggesting that reading might actually be interesting–and maybe even fun–generally results in nothing but skeptical looks.

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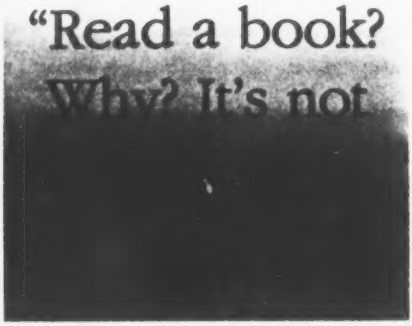

Teens' Favorite Books follows on the success of IRA's award-winning *Kids' Favorite Books* and is based on the same simple philosophy: if children and young adults read books they like, they will like to read, and if they like to read, they will read–and learn–more. How better to help young readers take that first step than by suggesting a book that has been tested and endorsed by teens? *Teens' Favorite Books* will make it easier to do just that.

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